



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5126

LCO No. 899

00899_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Chemical Innovations Institute within The University of Connecticut
3 Health Center that shall (1) foster green job growth and safe
4 workplaces through clean technology innovation and green chemistry,
5 and (2) provide assistance to businesses, state agencies and nonprofit
6 organizations that seek to utilize safe alternatives to chemicals that are
7 harmful to public health and the environment.

8 (b) The institute shall be overseen by a board of directors. The board
9 of directors shall consist of (1) the Commissioners of Public Health,
10 Environmental Protection and Consumer Protection, or their
11 designees, (2) a member appointed by The University of Connecticut
12 Health Center who shall be an ex-officio member of the board and
13 shall serve as the executive director of the institute, and (3) five
14 members appointed as follows: (A) One by the Governor, who shall
15 have expertise in sustainable business practices; (B) one by the
16 president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a

17 state-wide environmental health not-for-profit organization; (C) one by
18 the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a
19 representative of a state-wide occupational health and safety
20 organization or union health and safety committee; (D) one by the
21 minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a health professional or
22 scientist with expertise regarding the health effects of prenatal
23 exposure to chemicals of concern or occupational environmental
24 health; and (E) one by the minority leader of the House of
25 Representatives, who shall have green chemistry training and
26 expertise.

27 (c) Initial appointments to the board shall be made on or before
28 August 15, 2010. In the event that an appointing authority fails to
29 appoint an initial board member by August 31, 2010, the president pro
30 tempore of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives
31 shall jointly appoint a board member who meets the applicable
32 qualifications for such appointment and such board member shall
33 serve a full term. The term for the initial board member appointed by
34 the Governor shall be two years. The term for the initial board
35 members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate and
36 speaker of the House of Representatives shall be three years. The term
37 for the initial board member appointed by the minority leaders of the
38 Senate and the House of Representatives shall be four years. Any
39 person appointed to the board after such initial appointments shall
40 serve a term of four years.

41 (d) The board shall appoint two members to serve as the
42 cochairpersons of the board. The board shall meet at the discretion of
43 the cochairpersons provided it shall meet not less than once per year.
44 A quorum of the members of the board shall be required to conduct
45 any business. Five members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

46 (e) The institute shall work with businesses, state agencies, non
47 profit organizations, workers, and community groups as a resource for
48 information about chemicals that are of concern to public health and

49 the environment, safe alternatives to such chemicals, emerging state
50 and federal chemical regulations and the impact of such regulations on
51 the environment and public health. The institute shall: (1) Research
52 and identify chemicals that are important to the state economy, (2)
53 provide research and technical assistance concerning chemicals of
54 concern to the environment and public health, as well as safe
55 alternatives to such chemicals, (3) coordinate and share information
56 with institutes in other states and the interstate chemicals
57 clearinghouse, as described in section 22a-902 of the general statutes,
58 concerning safe alternative chemicals and the impact of such safe
59 alternative chemicals on public health and the environment, and (4)
60 offer trainings for businesses regarding chemical regulations and safer
61 chemical alternatives.

62 (f) The board shall review progress in meeting the duties described
63 in subsection (e) of this section. The board shall work to identify
64 potential funding sources that may be utilized to establish and
65 administer the institute.

66 (g) Not later than January fifteenth of each year and in accordance
67 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, the board
68 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General
69 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on
70 the activities of the past year that were performed by the institute in
71 furtherance of the institute's duties. Such report shall include
72 recommendations on options to fund the institute.

73 (h) The board shall seek federal funds for the administration of the
74 institute. In addition, The University of Connecticut Health Center
75 may seek funding for the institute from nongovernmental foundations,
76 private citizens, corporations and other government entities. In the
77 event that the board determines that adequate funds exist, the institute
78 may establish technical assistance grants to businesses and nonprofit
79 organizations to assist such businesses and nonprofit organizations in
80 transitioning to the use of safer chemical alternatives.

81 (i) The University of Connecticut Health Center shall not be
82 required to undertake any duty of the institute if federal, state and
83 private funds, in the aggregate, are insufficient to pay for the initial
84 and ongoing expenses of the institute.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Chemical Innovations Institute at The University of Connecticut Health Center.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]